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Book Reviews

Deigma, a First Greek Book. By C. Flamstead Walters and R. S. Conway, with the co-operation of Constance I. Daniel. London: John Murray, 1916.

If a teacher in the schools is looking for a first Greek book which is, in one volume, an elementary book of the inductive method, an exercise book with a moderate use of the direct method, a reader containing simple Greek narratives by the present authors and adapted excerpts from ancient authors, a grammar with no systematic arrangement of its contents, and two dictionaries, he will find all this, and more, in *Deigma*. He will find, also, a large vocabulary, the value of which in an elementary book is doubtful. If, according to the author's plan, he uses this book for two years, he cannot acquaint his class with the non-thematic verbs until the end of the first year, nor with the subjunctive and optative moods until the second year; while the subject of indirect discourse will not be presented until the end of the second year.

During all this time the pupil will be receiving exhaustive drill on exercises and at the same time will be postponing his introduction to, and extended acquaintance with, a real Greek prose author. But it is a matter of serious doubt whether the pupil will be benefited proportionally by the great variety of diversions that are incorporated in the book with the intention of catching and keeping his interest.

Discreet comparisons of certain Greek forms with their Latin cognates, brief presentations of the historical development of some apparently irregular forms, and detailed efforts at the explanation of some matters of syntax will perhaps seem admirable to some teachers.

In spite of the first statement of its preface, however, the entire book represents a direct contrast to the recent tendency to simplify and shorten the elementary stage to a safe minimum, and then to put a classical text into the hands of the pupil as early as possible in his career.

R. B. N.

The Wasps of Aristophanes. The Greek text revised with a translation into corresponding metres, introduction, and commentary. By Benjamin Bickley Rogers, M.A., Hon. D. Litt. London: G. Bell & Sons; New York: Macmillan, 1915.

Although the title-page withholds the fact, we have here a revision of an edition and translation of the *Wasps*, originally published in 1875. As a barrister Mr. Rogers is interested in the legal procedure of Athenian courts, and in his introduction to the first edition he discussed at length this aspect of the play; the new edition appends a supplement to the introduction; in this

the editor points out that the *Politeia* of Aristotle describes the dicastic system of Aristotle's time, which differs in many details from that of the fifth century; the scholastic commentary on the legal aspects of the play, however, depends to a large extent on the prose treatise and similar documents. The text of the play, therefore, remains our best evidence for certain details of procedure in the fifth century.

Mr. Rogers' translation has been long familiar to students of Aristophanes and in the opinion of most of us, I think, has no rival. His commentary in the present edition has received some additions, but no such overhauling as he found desirable in his revision of the *Clouds*. Since his fame as a translator overshadows his skill as a commentator, it may be well to remind ourselves that even the notes of Rogers' editions of the play may not be overlooked with impunity. Not infrequently his freedom from pedantic seriousness enables him to appreciate rightly the humor of the poet, and occasionally essential matters of fact are interpreted with convincing clearness; so, for example, the difficulties of *Acharnians* 507–8 are more nearly solved, in my opinion, by Rogers' note than by Starkie's full array of literary evidence.

H. W. P.

T. Livi Ab Urbe Condita, Liber I. By PINXIT D. WALWORTH. Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: Bureau of Publication, Vassar College. \$0.40, postpaid.

This little *volumen* of 35 pictures, drawn by a member of the Freshman class in Vassar College, is intended primarily to illustrate the first book of Livy. A very considerable number of the pictures, however, necessarily represent equally well scenes in the *Aeneid*. The roll consists of five and a half sheets of paper, nicely pasted together, each sheet being $4\frac{1}{2} \times 38$ in. The *umbilici* are gilded in the best approved style, and on the end of one of these is a *titulus*, bearing the legend: *T. Livi Ab Urbe Condita*, *Liber I*.

Naturally, the first picture is entitled "The Romans' Land." The last set of pictures portrays the hurried return of the young men from Ardea to Rome to discover how their wives are enduring their absence. One wife is represented as dancing, the music being furnished by a young man seated at a piano. Another wife is found banqueting, still another at a bridge party, and finally Lucretia, sewing.

The pictures are all humorous and clever, most of them exceedingly clever, and they will delight any class that is reading the first book of Livy, or the Aeneid. I believe, moreover, that the little roll will not simply amuse the students, but that it will excite their imaginations and bring about a deeper interest in the narrative. It will, too, give the student a clear idea of how books were made in ancient times. There can hardly be anyone in the profession who does not approve of such means for arousing enthusiasm on the part of our students. If there is anyone who fails to agree with me in this, to him I would give Martial's advice: Ne nucibus positis ARMA VIRUMQUE legas.

I congratulate the artist, and I wish her as high a degree of success in illustrating the third decade of Livy, on which she is now working.

M. N. W.